

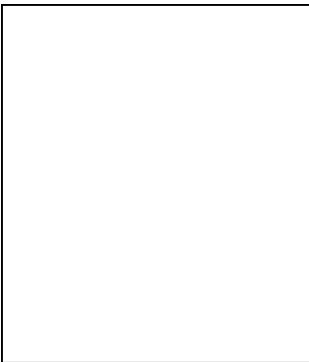
Community Oriented Policing & Problem Solving

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Up close and personal with Chief David G. Bishop

Community Based Policing Partnership



Chief David G. Bishop

The Beaverton Police Department began its transition to Community Policing in 1993, when I and my staff presented to the Beaverton City Council the *First Phase* of the future of policing in Beaverton, a community policing transition plan that moved the Department toward new *community-oriented policing* strategies. This philosophical shift in our policing method was extremely well received by the community, but required more work to fully incorporate this methodology into our departmental culture. As a result, in 1999, the *Second Phase* was implemented. The *Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving Strategic Implementation Plan* sought to embed community policing methodology into the foundation of the department, and

was largely successful due to the leadership of this agency, the hard work of its members and the significant partnerships with our community.

The *Second Phase* plan elementally succeeded in its primary function; that being the incorporation of community policing method and philosophy into the core culture of this agency. There is no longer speculation regarding this; community policing is what we do here, and how we do our business every day.

The natural progression has led us now to our *Third Phase*. This process started with long days spent scrutinizing the *Second Phase* plan, and emulating those aspects of that plan that worked especially well. Likewise, those aspects of the *Second Phase* plan that were problematic for its implementation were either modified or eliminated. The resulting *Community Based Policing Partnership Plan* is not so much an implementation plan as it is a *tune-up* plan; a maintenance plan designed to ensure that our community based policing methods are the best that they can be.

The *Community Based Policing Partnership Plan* focuses our efforts on four key goals. These goals were identified as critical to our continued success, and the objectives outlined within each goal were arrived at after careful consideration of our desired performance outcomes. These key goals are:

Performance and Expectations:

Ensure we achieve our goals and objectives.

Ensure we demonstrate complete competence in our service delivery.

Ensure our performance is the best that it can be and the best that we can make it.

Ensure that our business model is truly *community-based*, and that we remain community inclusive in our decision making.

Accountability and Assessment:

Ensure we are *efficient*, and that our resources are being used appropriately.

Ensure we are *effective*, and that our efforts achieve the performance-related goals that we have established.

Ensure we accomplish our *community-based policing* mandate, and that our partnership with our

community continues to flourish.

Communication:

Ensure our *Internal* communication supports the above listed criteria by communicating effectively inter-departmentally.

Ensure our *External* communication fosters effective interchange with our community; making sure we get our message out, and that we hear and understand our community.

Training:

Ensure our training program effectively supports all of the above listed criteria.

Ensure our training is purposed, well-planned, performance-related, goal oriented, and efficient.

As we move forward, "Partners for a Safer Community" continues to be our motto. By continually improving our method, while striving to be responsive to community needs and input, we will continue to provide the professional, proactive, performance-based police services that are synonymous with the Beaverton Police Department.

EVIDENCE - crucial to successful prosecution of a crime!

A crime has been committed. A suspect has been taken into custody and is awaiting trial.

The successful prosecution of the criminal is dependent upon the proper gathering, recording and storing of evidence before the trial and the presentation of evidence at the trial. Cases have been lost because of mishandling of evidence, so maintaining the integrity of the "chain of custody" is absolutely essential.

"Maintaining the integrity of evidence and the chain of custody is crucial to any police department. You never want to provide an opportunity for anyone to be able to question where a piece of evidence was at any given time."

Shannon Armstrong

The responsibility for directing the handling of all property and evidence received by the Beaverton Police Department rests with Shannon Armstrong, the Records and Evidence Division Manager. Shannon keeps current by attending classes offered by the IAPE* and the State Crime Lab.

To successfully accomplish this task requires a strong knowledge of federal and state laws and all BPD General Orders, policies and procedures regarding the handling of evidence. Once evidence has been turned over to the property and evidence section, it becomes their sole responsibility.

As evidence of a crime is gathered it is brought to the Property & Evidence section. Access to this highly restricted area is provided to officers through multiple doors, gates and locks. Items must be properly recorded on a "property receipt" packaged correctly and deposited into special lockers.

Packaging of the evidence is a

very important part of the procedure to ensure that the item can be stored properly and to safeguard property personnel who will be handling the item in the storage area. Careful handling of sharp weapons and particularly needles or other drug related paraphernalia requires special attention.

Wet items cannot be placed directly in a paper or plastic bag until they have been completely dried in order to prevent mold and mildew that may degrade the evidence. Special dryers are available to be used in drying these items. Blood and other body fluids require refrigeration and a locked refrigerator is provided for these items.

Once the locker is closed it cannot be reopened by the officer and that officer's responsibility for the evidence ends.

Only evidence personnel have the keys to open these lockers and they do so each morning. When the items are removed from these special lockers, they are checked for proper packaging, correctly completed paperwork and then each item is entered into the database and a bar code is generated and attached to every single piece of evidence. Items are then grouped by case number and stored in numerical order on shelves in the evidence area. Special items such as drugs, currency, and jewelry are stored in safes while other items may require refrigeration and are stored in special units. Storage for an individual case might range from a single envelope to numerous large moving boxes full of items.

Shannon estimates that they have had as many as 60,000 items in the evidence area. Currently there are approximately 30,000 items being stored. The types of items range from small samples of hair or lint to large vehicles. Among the current inventory are couches, fenders, tires, cement

blocks, computers, an Oregonian newspaper dispensing box, suitcases, back packs, bedding and a large variety of other items. Asked about any unusual items, Shannon responded that when the evidence was moved to a new location they discovered what looked like a piece of steak that appeared to be petrified. The item was part of the evidence from the I-5 killer case in 1981.

Certain types of evidence must be retained indefinitely while other items can be disposed of in accordance with directions from the District Attorney's office, the City Attorney's office, the court or the arresting officer. Evidence personnel cannot dispose of any items without proper authorization.

If an item must be removed from the Property & Evidence section to be sent to the Crime Lab or for use in the trial it must be authorized, signed for and logged out. When it is returned, in the original package, it is logged back in. Transaction codes are used to keep the database constantly updated as to the exact location of each piece of evidence.

Access to the Property & Evidence area is **HIGHLY RESTRICTED**. Shannon and her evidence personnel are the only authorized people to be in this area. All others must be accompanied by one of the Property & Evidence personnel and cannot, under any circumstances, be left alone in this area. Each individual is required to sign in upon entering the area and sign out when leaving the area.

As members of the *International Association of Property and Evidence, Beaverton personnel receive helpful information and guidelines for handling evidence and attend seminars on the latest procedures. The association will soon offer a training program so local personnel can receive additional instruction and be nationally certified to handle evidence.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

Give yourself plenty of extra time to get to your destination.

Clear all windows of snow, ice or interior fog before beginning your trip.

Be sure your tires have enough tread for traction in snow and to reduce the risk of hydroplaning in rain or puddles on the road.

WEAR SAFETY BELTS!

Drive with low-beam headlights in snow or fog. Keep your headlights, stoplights and turn signals clean.

Keep at least three times the normal following distance from vehicles in front of you on snow or ice.

If you start to skid, ease your foot off the accelerator. Keep your foot off the brake and steer in the direction the rear of the vehicle is skidding.

ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS, HEAVY FOG IS THE MOST DANGEROUS DRIVING HAZARD IN EXISTENCE.

Slow down and do not drive faster than your vision permits.

Be cautious. Fog can become thicker without warning and without you noticing it until it is too late to react.

Turn off your cruise control so you are in control of your vehicle.

Do not change lanes or pass other vehicles unless absolutely necessary.

Signal early, and when you use your brakes, do so gently.

TRI-MET: Special assignment for officers!

If you ride the MAX trains more than once or twice a year, the chances are very good that you have encountered a "fair inspector" who wanted to check your ticket.

From Forest Grove to Gresham, whether riding a bus or the train, you might also see uniformed police officers who are a part of a special Tri-Met police unit assigned to make your riding experience as safe as possible.

Members of this special unit come from the Multnomah County and Washington County sheriff's departments and the Beaverton, Gresham, Milwaukie and Portland police departments.

Beaverton officer Dan Coulson was a member of this special unit until four months ago when he moved to the Criminal Investigations Division as a detective.

"The officers in Tri-Met are a great bunch of folks. They go out and do what they can and they do a great job with the tools that they have."

Officer Dan Coulson

The variety of criminal activities on the Tri-Met system are the same as those in the communities served by Tri-Met, but the most prevalent is drug dealing. "Tri-Met moves a lot of people. What better place to go then where a lot of people are going to be..."

To combat this activity and deal with other criminal activities the Transit Crimes Response Team (TCRT) is utilized. During his three

year tenure as a member of the Tri-Met police team, Dan also spent time as a member of the TCRT. Dan said, "The overall experience is great.

You get to change your appearance." Dan could be a punk rocker, construction worker, drug user, ordinary rider or assume any of a number of other disguises in this undercover activity. You spend your time "...riding the trains just waiting for people to get unruly, perform criminal acts, or just do stupid things in front of you. Then, you pull out your badge and take care of the business."

When asked about what riders can do about loud, obnoxious fellow riders using obscene language when young children are present he responded, "Tri-Met's view of it is that it's basically a freedom of speech issue." His advice is to move to another car on the train or get off and wait for the next train. "Just move, it's not worth confronting somebody and getting hurt."

If you observe a criminal act, you can get the attention of the driver, who has communications capabilities. Or, call 911 on your cell phone and officers will be dispatched to take care of the situation. Dan suggests that you sit in the front car of the MAX train as close to the driver as possible.

Whether you are on the streets, at a mall or riding on the Tri-Met system, your best protection is to be aware of what is happening around you. If a situation doesn't look safe, try to avoid it. Seek help, if necessary, but avoid confrontation that could cause injury to you or your family.

DON'T BE A CAR THEFT VICTIM!

**Is your car parked outside overnight?
Do you start it in the morning and leave it running to warm up
while you go back inside the house?**

This unsafe practice results in several car thefts every week in the county.

**If you start your car to defrost windows or just to warm it up,
stay with the vehicle.**

GARAGE DOOR: Entryway to your home!

Almost everyone is aware of the need to have a strong lock and a deadbolt lock on the front and rear doors of their residence, but many do not consider that the garage doors may also provide an easy access route into their home.

Do you leave your garage door open at any time during the day or night? An open garage door could result in the loss of items stored in the garage and may also lead to a home invasion.

Electronic garage door openers are a tremendous convenience, but, as with any electronic equipment, they may be triggered by scanning devices. Consider taking safety precautions to prevent entry into your home through the attached garage.

Following are some protective measures that you can take to help reduce the risk of entry into your home through your garage:

All hinged entry doors in the garage should be solid wood doors with a keyed lock and a deadbolt lock.

The strike plate for all deadbolt locks should be a heavy duty plate attached with 3 inch screws to go through the door frame into the studs.

Doors to the outside should be locked at all times. The door to the interior of the house should be locked at night and when away from the house.

When away from the house overnight, safeguard your overhead garage door by placing an ordinary padlock through an opening in the door track just above one of the wheels on the hinged garage door panels. Place the lock as close to one of the wheels as possible to minimize any opening at the base of the door if the garage door opener is triggered. When leaving, place the padlock in the overhead door track, enter the house, lock the door lock and deadbolt lock on the door connecting to the house and exit through the front door locking the front door and front door deadbolt lock.

Secure any horizontal sliding windows by laying a dowel in the track to prevent sliding movement or use a secondary locking device in the window track.

689 Child Safety seats installed during 2004!

The last Beaverton Police Department Child Safety Seat Clinic for 2004 was completed on Saturday, December 4th.

Installation of 35 safety seats at this last clinic brought the total number of seats checked in 2004 to 689.

Instructing parents on the proper installation of the safety seats for their children is a free service provided by officers and volunteers. At the beginning of the year four of the police officers were nationally certified child safety seat technicians and Officer Pam Broeckel completed the extensive certification program in April. Four additional officers completed the shorter

training course to become installers. Officers devoted more than 225 hours during the year working at the clinics.

BPD volunteers also take an active part in this program, contributing an additional 300 hours.

Five volunteers are trained installers and one volunteer, Jim Groves, completed the certification program to become a technician. Throughout the year, other volunteers contributed their time directing traffic, handing out forms and assisting the installers/technicians in completing the paperwork.

In association with ACTS Oregon and SafeKids USA the clinics are open to everyone. BPD clinics pro-

vided service to residents of 27 different communities in the area.

33 seats were not installed, primarily, because the seat was too old. General guidelines dictate that any seat more than five years old cannot be used safely.

38% of the seats installed were for parents awaiting the birth of their baby. By coming to the clinic before the baby arrived, they were prepared to bring the baby home safely.

Whether your child uses an infant carrier, a safety seat with restraints, a booster seat or the regular vehicle seat belts, it is essential that you know the appropriate method for transporting them safely at every age.

Handy Police numbers:

Police Administration	503-526-2264
Non-Emergency	503-629-0111
Property	503-526-2483
Public Information	503-526-2275
Records	503-526-2260
Training	503-526-2279
Volunteer Coordinator	503-526-2562

News of:

Community
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